

# NEWS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

**APRIL 13, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today the indictment of six Franklin County residents in two separate federal indictments that address methamphetamine production in and around Franklin County, Illinois. The indictments were returned by a federal grand jury in Benton, Illinois. All six of the individuals indicted are in custody after their arrests today.

Those arrested in the first indictment that was handed down by the federal grand jury are: **Deveron Mark Murphy**, 27, of Benton, Illinois, **Don Michael Murphy**, 31, of Benton, Illinois, **Angela Murphy**, 28, of Benton, Illinois, and **Michael John Easley**, 31, of Benton, Illinois.

The four are all charged with conspiracy to produce and distribute methamphetamine.

The indictment alleges that the violations took place between December 2003 until January 2005 in Franklin County, Illinois. If convicted by a jury, all defendants face a minimum of 10 years imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a four million dollar fine and at least 5 years of supervised release.

Those indicted in the second indictment by the federal grand jury are: **Bruce A. Tasky**, 37, of West Frankfort and, Illinois, and **Daphne Braden**, also known as Daphne Thiel, 33, formerly of Benton, Illinois.

The defendants are both charged with conspiracy to produce and distribute methamphetamine. The indictment alleges that the violations took place between November of 2000 and September 2003 in Franklin County and Jefferson County, Illinois. If convicted by a jury, **Tasky** and **Braden** face a minimum of 10 years imprisonment up to life imprisonment, a four million dollar fine and at least 5 years of supervised release.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The lead agency in the recent indictments was the COMIT Drug Task Force. Others participating in the investigation were Franklin County State's Attorney Tom Dinn, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, The Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, the

Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, the Illinois State Police Crime Lab and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The recent indictments brings the number of federal defendants charged through the efforts of the COMIT Drug Task Force to over 100. Since 1996, COMIT has helped charge 104 defendants in Federal Court.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tom Leggans.